

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the courteous interview granted by Examiners Hoekstra and Marmon to George H. Gerstman, counsel for applicant, on March 16, 2006.

Pursuant to the interview, claims 1, 16, and 26 have been amended to more clearly delineate the inner or first tubing from the outer or second tubing.

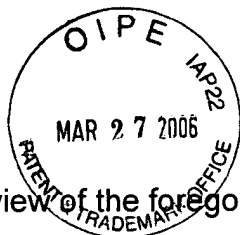
With respect to the double patenting provisional rejection, co-pending application 11/168,220 has been abandoned and thus the double patenting provisional rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to the drawing objection, claim 39 has been cancelled so the drawing objection should be withdrawn.

At the interview, counsel for applicant pointed out that item 86 of Imran is not an inner flexible tube but is, in sharp contrast, a solid core wire. It was further pointed out that Imran's helical coil is not attached to the distal portion of flexible tubing. Further, Imran teaches away from inner and outer tubing extending through a balloon for attachment to a helical coil. Imran does not have an outer tube surrounding an inner tube to define a passageway between an outer tube and the inner tube, with a balloon mounted on the outer tube and communicating with the passageway.

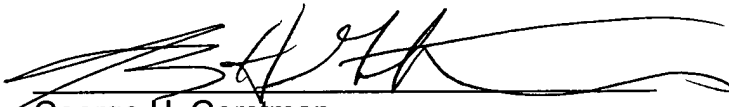
In view of the foregoing, it is clear that Imran does not teach or suggest the subject matter of applicant's claims because Imran's balloon catheter is structured entirely different from applicant's claimed balloon catheter.

None of the secondary references, including Schaer et al., Nitzsche (5,190,050), and Bagaoisan et al. remedy the basic and significant deficiencies of Imran.



In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

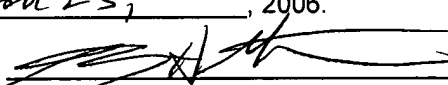
Respectfully submitted,
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP


George H. Gerstman
Registration No. 22,419
Attorney for Applicant

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
55 East Monroe Street, Suite 4200
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 269-8567

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 23, 2006.


Registered Attorney for Applicant
Date: March 23, 2006